



## Police found 115 bodies at Colorado 'green' funeral home while investigating putrid smells

By Jesse Bedayn  
Associated Press

CAÑON CITY, Colo. (AP) —

At least 115 decaying bodies were found at a storage facility for a "green" funeral operator, after neighbors reported abhorrent smells emanating from the location in rural southern Colorado, police said Friday, calling it a "disturbing discovery." The owner tried to conceal the improper storage of corpses and claimed he was doing taxidermy at the facility, according to a suspension letter sent to him by state regulators that was made public Friday. No one has been arrested or charged yet. The Return to Nature Funeral Home facility in the small town of Penrose had been unregistered with the state for 10 months on Wednesday when owner Jon Hallford spoke by phone with a state regulator the day after the smells were reported and police launched an investigation. Hallford acknowledged that he had a "problem" at the property, though the Colorado Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration document obtained by The Associated Press didn't explain what Hallford meant with his taxidermy claim or how he tried to conceal improper storage of human remains. Text messages and phone calls were not answered at the funeral home, which



Authorities walk outside a closed funeral home where 115 bodies have been stored, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, in Penrose, Colo. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

had no working voice mail. Officials declined to describe the scene inside the Return to Nature Funeral Home facility. A multi-agency effort recover and identify the remains was underway in Penrose, a town of about 3,000 people in the mountains west of Colorado Springs.

On Friday, a sour, rotten stench came from the back of the building, where windows were broken. Coroner's officials from Fremont County and nearby

El Paso County parked their trucks outside and discussed among themselves as they walked around the building. The funeral home performed "green" burials without embalming chemicals or metal caskets. Local residents said they smelled foul odors around the building for months but thought little of it, assuming a dead animal or septic system was to blame. Funeral home officials were cooperating as investigators sought to determine any crimi-

nal wrongdoing, Fremont County Sheriff Allen Cooper said at a news conference. "Without providing too much detail to avoid further victimizing these families there, the funeral home where the bodies were improperly stored was horrific," Cooper said. Some identifications would require taking fingerprints, finding medical or dental records and DNA, Fremont County Coroner Randy Keller said. "This could take several months. As we

identify each decedent, families will be notified as soon as absolutely possible," Keller said. Other Colorado county coroners had agreed to help while the FBI and state police and emergency management officials worked at the scene. Meanwhile, Fremont County declared an official disaster to possibly make state funds available for the effort, Keller said.

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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

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## Authorities can't search slain Las Vegas reporter's devices, Nevada Supreme Court rules

**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — A slain Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter's personal devices and other records are protected even after death, the Nevada Supreme Court has ruled.

The state's highest court ruled Thursday that Nevada's shield law, which protects journalists from disclosing sources, precludes Las Vegas police and prosecutors from going through Jeff German's things, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

The ruling also stated Nevada's return of property law applies to the newspaper because it is an "aggrieved party." Authorities had argued they could search German's things because the Review-Journal had no ownership claims.

The three justices also upheld a proposal that a third party examine German's materials as part of the po-



Clark County Public Administrator Robert Telles, right, talks to Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter Jeff German in his Las Vegas office, on May 11, 2022.

(K.M. Cannon/Las Vegas Review-Journal via AP, File)

lice investigation into his killing.

A Clark County District judge previously said she didn't have jurisdiction to

consider the matter.

Glenn Cook, the newspaper's executive editor, applauded the court. He argued letting authorities

search German's devices and discriminate what is protected under press privilege "is like the fox guarding the henhouse."

Attorneys for investigators have said the devices must be searched for evidence to build a case in German's slaying.

Police allege that Robert "Rob" Telles, a Democratic elected county official, waited outside German's home in September 2022 before fatally stabbing him. Telles was arrested five days later.

Authorities believe Telles, who has since been stripped of his elected position, was motivated by German's reporting on Telles' time as public administrator. German's stories included reports of bullying and hostility perpetrated by Telles in the office, as well as an inappropriate relationship with a staffer.

Telles has pleaded not guilty to one count of murder. He plans to represent himself and has a preliminary hearing scheduled later this month. □

## Police found 115 bodies at Colorado 'green' funeral home while investigating putrid smells

**Continued from Front**

Family members who have used the funeral home were asked to contact investigators. The bodies were inside a 2,500-square foot (230-square meter) building with the appearance and dimensions of a standard one-story home. Authorities declined to say if the building was equipped to properly store bodies. They also wouldn't disclose in what state the bodies were found or how they were stored. Under Colorado law, green burials are legal but state code requires that any body not buried within 24 hours must be properly refrigerated. Deputies were called in Tuesday night in reference to a suspicious incident officials haven't yet described. Fremont County Sheriff's Office investigators returned the next day with a search warrant and found the remains. There was no health risk to

the public, officials said, at the building with trash bags near the entrance and law enforcement vehicles parked in front. Yellow police tape cordoned off the area and a putrid odor was in the air. A hearse was parked at the back of the building, in a parking lot overgrown with weeds. Nearby was a post office and a few homes on wide, grassy lots, some with parked semi-trucks. The license for the facility expired in November of last year, according to a cease and desist order issued Thursday by Colorado state regulators. When reached by regulators, owner Jon Hallford acknowledged that he has a "problem" at the Penrose property and claimed he practiced taxidermy there.

Joyce Pavetti, 73, could see the funeral home from the stoop of her house and said she caught whiffs of a putrid smell in the last few weeks.

"We just assumed it was a dead animal," she said. On Wednesday night, Pavetti said she could see lights from law enforcement swarming around the building and knew something was going on.

The building had been occupied by different businesses over the years, said Pavetti, who once took yoga classes there. She hasn't seen anyone in the area recently and noticed the hearse behind the building only in recent months, she said.

Neighbor Ron Alexander thought the smell was coming from a septic tank, adding that Wednesday night's blur of law enforcement lights "looked like the 4th of July."

The father of a 25-year-old U.S. Navy serviceman who died last summer said Return to Nature handled his son's body between the time of its arrival back in Colorado and an Aug. 25 funeral service at Pikes

Peak National Cemetery east of Colorado Springs.

"I mean, there's obviously questions after hearing that there is something going on but there's not any information that I can go off of to really make any kind of judgement on it," said Paul Saito Kahler, of Fountain, Colorado. The Return to Nature Funeral Home provided burial of non-embalmed bodies in biodegradable caskets, shrouds or "nothing at all," according to its website. The company also provided cremation services. Messages left for the Colorado Springs-based company were not returned. The company charged \$1,895 for a "natural burial." That doesn't include the cost of a casket and cemetery space, according to the website.

Return to Nature was established six years ago in Colorado Springs, according to public records. Fremont County property records show that the fu-

neral home building and lot are owned by Hallford-homes, LLC, a business with a Colorado Springs address that the Colorado Secretary of State declared delinquent on Oct. 1 for failing to file a routine reporting form that was due at the end of July.

The LLC changed addresses around Colorado Springs three times since its establishment in 2016 with a post office box. Hallfordhomes still owes about \$5,000 in 2022 property taxes on its building in Penrose, according to Fremont County records.

Return to Nature Funeral Home was licensed in Colorado Springs in 2017. There were no disciplinary actions against the company listed on a state license database. There was not a separate license for the Penrose facility and it wasn't known if one was needed. Messages left with licensing authorities were not immediately returned. □



# A homeless man is charged with capital murder and rape in the death of a 5-year-old Kansas girl

By Heather Hollingsworth and John Hanna

Associated Press

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)** — A 25-year-old homeless man was charged Thursday in the rape and killing of a 5-year-old Kansas girl who died despite firefighters' efforts to save her life in a gas station parking lot.

Mickel Cherry faces one count of capital murder — which would allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty — and one count each of first-degree murder and rape in the death of Zoey Felix on Monday. He was jailed in Topeka on a \$2 million bond, and his next court appearance has not yet been determined. Shawnee County District Attorney Michael Kagay told reporters that a decision about seeking a death sentence won't be made until after a preliminary hearing to determine whether Cherry stands trial. That is standard in capital cases.

Mark Manna, of the Kansas Death Penalty Defense

Unit, said his office would represent Cherry, but that he had no further comment. Cherry's family didn't respond to messages.

Authorities have released no details about the cause of Zoey's death, but former neighbors of the girl and her family believe she, her father and Cherry had lived the past few weeks in a grove of trees on a wooded lot near the gas station, just blocks from the home where her mother lived. They believed she was carried from the wooded lot to the gas station, but police have not confirmed any of those details.

Kagay said in a news release that Topeka police rushed to a gas station where fire crews were attempting to save Zoey's life. She was later pronounced dead. A medical examination at the hospital revealed injuries consistent with sexual assault.

"I think the investigation into the murder and rape of this 5-year-old girl is fairly complete," Kagay told re-

porters during a brief news conference.

Asked about potentially charging other people, Kagay said, "I'm willing to consider any actionable investigations brought to me," but when he was asked whether he is aware of any other investigations, he said, "I'm not."

Timothy Phelps, deputy director of the Shawnee County Department of Corrections, confirmed that Cherry used to live at the same address as Zoey, but at the time of his arrest, Cherry was homeless.

Cherry has no criminal record in Kansas, but he does have a misdemeanor criminal trespass conviction in Amarillo, Texas.

Neighbors said they had raised concerns that Zoey's family home had no electricity and that they called the police and child welfare.

"She just had a good spirit to her. Honestly, very outgoing, smart. She was curious about everything. She'd ask you a 1,001 ques-



In this photo provided by Desiree Myles, 5-year-old Zoey Felix poses for a photo after neighbors bought her a new outfit and cleaned her up in September 2023.

(Desiree Myles via AP)

tions, and she demanded answers for those too," said Shaniqua Bradley, a neighbor.

Topeka police confirmed Thursday that they made three visits to the home in September: one on Sept. 5 for a welfare check following a report that the home had no electricity; and two domestic disturbance calls in the afternoon and evening of Sept. 19, a little more than an hour apart. Police did not provide details about those two calls. City spokeswoman Gretchen Spiker said in an email that during the first call of officers confirmed there was no electricity and that they were told the child wasn't staying there. Police met with the child, saw she was in "good spirits" but still made a report to child wel-

fare and property officials, Spiker said.

The city moved to condemn the house but backed off when the utilities were turned back on. Neighbors said that everyone but the mother had moved out by then.

One tent and a tarp were set up in the woods a few blocks away from the home, in an area about a football field away from the pumps at a Dillons grocery store where fire crews tried to resuscitate Zoey. Her dad worked at the gas station; a coworker said Wednesday that he was taking time off and the company hasn't responded to an email from The Associated Press.

A makeshift memorial of flowers, balloons and toys sat nearby. □

## Georgia will be first state with medical marijuana in pharmacies



Medical marijuana prescription vials are filled at a medical marijuana dispensary in Venice, Calif., May 14, 2013. Georgia soon will become the first state in the nation to offer medical marijuana products at independent pharmacies, state officials said.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File)

Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Georgia soon will become the first state in the nation to offer medical marijuana products at independent pharmacies, state officials said.

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy began accepting applications this week, and nearly 120 pharmacies have agreed to provide medication from Botanical Sciences, one of the state's two licensed

production companies, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. It will likely take a few weeks before medical marijuana is available in pharmacies. After they submit applications, inspections will be required before the board grants approval.

Medical marijuana is only available to Georgians with approval from a physician to treat severe illnesses including seizures, terminal cancers, Parkinson's disease and post-traumatic stress disorder. Low THC oil can contain no more than 5% THC, the compound that gives users a high.

The expansion of medical cannabis sales into drug stores will put low THC oil within reach of many more patients, adding to the state's seven dispensaries that have opened since April.

Patients will be able to buy cannabis oil at pharmacies if they show a state-issued low THC oil registry card and identification.

"Pharmacists have been fielding questions from patients for years without ever having the ability to do anything about it," said Gary Long, CEO for Botanical Sciences. "Finally, they have the ability not just to give people advice but provide them with the therapies they've been seeking." □



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## Louisiana Republicans are in court to fight efforts to establish new Black congressional district



Interim Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin, R-Baton Rouge, talks to reporters on July 20, 2018, in Baton Rouge, La.

(AP Photo/Melinda Deslatte, File)

By Kevin McGill  
Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Federal appeals court judges in New Orleans closely

questioned voting rights advocates and attorneys for Louisiana Republican officials Friday on whether Louisiana must follow

Alabama's court-ordered path in drawing a new mostly Black congressional district — and how quickly that could and should be done ahead of next year's elections. Louisiana is among multiple states still wrangling over congressional districts after the U.S. Supreme Court decided in June that Alabama had violated the Voting Rights Act when its Republican legislature failed to create a second Black-majority congressional district when it redrew the state's congressional map after the 2020 census. At issue Friday was an injunction by a federal judge that Louisiana Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin and Landry, both Re-

publicans, are fighting. The injunction in 2022 by U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick found that a congressional map drawn up by the Republican-dominated Legislature that year likely violated the Voting Rights Act. The state is about one-third Black but only one of the six congressional districts has a majority Black population. Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards is among supporters of a second mostly Black district. On Friday, Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod, one of three judge's hearing the case at the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, raised the possibility that the injunction, which orders a new congressional map for 2024, could be

upheld while also allowing a trial on the merits of the case that could alter the map again before the 2026 election. But Elrod also suggested the court might toss the 2022 injunction with orders for an expedited trial process aimed at assuring the issues are settled before next year's elections. Elrod and Judge Leslie Southwick both took pains to stress during Friday's hearing that their questions shouldn't be construed as an indication of how they will rule in the Louisiana case. Members of the Republican-dominated Legislature have resisted drawing a new minority district, despite the Alabama case. □

## Alaska fishermen will be allowed to harvest lucrative red king crab in the Bering Sea

By Mark Thiessen and Joshua A. Bickel

Associated Press

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**

— Alaska fishermen will be able to harvest red king crab for the first time in two years, offering a slight reprieve to the beleaguered fishery beset by low numbers likely exacerbated by climate change.

There was no such rebound for snow crab, however, and that fishery will remain closed for a second straight year, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced Friday.

"The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery for the prior two seasons were closed based on low abundance and particularly low abundance of mature-sized female crabs," said Mark Stichert, the state department's ground fish and shellfish management coordinator.

"Based on survey results from this year, those numbers have improved, some signs of modest optimism in terms of improving abundance in Bristol Bay red king crab overall and that has allowed for a small but still conservative fishery for

2023 as the total population size is still quite low," he said.

The reopening of the red king crab fishery was welcome news for fishers.

"We're really happy they're opening up the king crab season, it'll bring some much needed relief," said Gabriel Prout, a third-generation fisher and president of the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, a nonprofit trade association.

But Prout expects fewer boats to participate in this season's crab fishery. Difficulty in finding crew members and having enough money to maintain boats may limit the number of vessels participating this season, he added.

The estimates of spawning crab and the number of mature female red king crab were above thresholds required to open the fishery in Bristol Bay, according to analysis of surveys by both the state and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishermen will be allowed to catch 2.1 million pounds (952,500 kilograms) of red king crab for three months beginning Oct. 15, the



A person walks across the dock at St. Paul Harbor, Thursday, June 22, 2023, in Kodiak, Alaska.

(AP Photo/Joshua A. Bickel, File)

state announced. More than 2.65 million pounds (1.2 million kilograms) were caught in 2020. The fishery saw nearly 130 million pounds (59 million kilograms) caught in 1980 before declining for the next three decades. While the red king crab have been off limits for two years, the snow crab season was also canceled last year.

State fishery officials also decided to close the snow crab season for a second year, siding on conservation of the stock. The Tanner crab fishery will open as normal after the number of adult mature male Tanner crabs exceeded the threshold, one species that has signs of optimism in the coming years for fisheries managers. In 2020, snow crab fishers

caught about 45 million pounds (20.4 million kilograms) of snow crab worth almost \$106 million, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The following season, that fishery shrank to about a tenth of the previous season — 5.5 million pounds (2.5 million kilograms) were harvested at a value of just over \$24 million. □



## French judges file charges against ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy in a case linked to Libya

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — French investigative judges filed preliminary charges on Friday against former President Nicolas Sarkozy for his alleged involvement in an attempt to mislead magistrates in order to clear him in a case regarding the suspected illegal financing from Libya of his 2007 presidential campaign. The preliminary charges accuse Sarkozy of "benefitting from corruptly influencing a witness" and "participating in a criminal association" in order "to mislead the magistrates in charge of the judicial investigation into suspicions of Libyan financing of his election campaign," according to a statement from the financial prosecutors' office. Sarkozy has denied any involvement. His lawyers said in a statement Friday that the ex-president is "determined to assert his rights,

establish the truth and defend his honor." Under French law, preliminary charges mean there is reason to suspect a crime has been committed, but it allows magistrates more time to investigate before deciding whether to send the case to trial. French media report that Sarkozy is suspected of having given the go-ahead, or allowed several people to do so, regarding a fraudulent attempt to clear him in the so-called Libyan case. Sarkozy and 12 others will go on trial in early 2025 on charges that his 2007 presidential campaign received millions in illegal financing from the government of late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. Sarkozy has been under investigation in the Libya case since 2013. He is charged with illegal campaign financing, embezzling, passive corruption

and related counts. Investigators examined claims that Gadhafi's government secretly gave Sarkozy 50 million euros for his winning 2007 campaign. The sum would be more than double the legal campaign funding limit at the time and would violate French rules against foreign campaign financing. The investigation gained traction when French-Lebanese businessman Ziad Takieddine told news site Mediapart in 2016 that he had delivered suitcases from Libya containing 5 million euros (\$6.2 million) in cash to Sarkozy and his former chief of staff. Takieddine later reversed course and Sarkozy sought to have the investigation closed. After becoming president in 2007, Sarkozy welcomed Gadhafi to France with high honors later that year. Sarkozy then put France at the forefront of NATO-led



French President Nicolas Sarkozy, left, greets Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi upon his arrival at the Elysee Palace, Dec. 10 2007 in Paris.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori, File)

airstrikes that helped rebel fighters topple Gadhafi's government in 2011. In an unrelated case, Sarkozy was sentenced to a year of house arrest for illegal campaign financing of his unsuccessful 2012 reelection bid. He is free while the case is pending

appeal. He also was found guilty of corruption and influence peddling in another case and sentenced to a year of house arrest in an appeals trial in May this year. He took the case to France's highest court, which suspended the sentence. □

## EU summit points to reforms the bloc needs in order to welcome Ukraine and others as new members



Spain's acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, left, speaks alongside European Council President Charles Michel, centre and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during the closing news conference on the 2nd day of the Europe Summit in Granada, Spain, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

(AP Photo/Fermin Rodriguez)

By R. Casert and I. Sullivan  
Associated Press

**GRANADA, Spain (AP)** — European Union leaders acknowledged Friday that just as aspiring members must meet exacting criteria to join the bloc, the 27 member nations also must work hard to reform the EU to make sure it can work smoothly with 30-plus nations. Although Ukraine was hop-

ing for a swift timetable for joining, the 27 leaders declined to adopt a target date of 2030 for Kyiv's membership as had been proposed by EU Council President Charles Michel. The group pledged unwavering support to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday, but the summit ended by saying that any aspiring member must complete

the EU's long and tortuous merit-based process that can last years or decades. Shortcuts for geopolitical reasons were ruled out. "Aspiring members need to step up their reform efforts, notably in the area of rule of law, in line with the merit-based nature of the accession process," said the joint declaration of the leaders. "In parallel, the Union needs to lay the necessary

internal groundwork and reforms." Avoiding any target date for new members sidestepped a rift at the summit between those who want to draw Kyiv and other aspiring nations in as quickly as possible, and others that want the bloc to bide its time, setting up difficult talks on an issue that requires unanimity among the 27 member states.

Most EU nations have said since the February 2022 start of the war that they would work steadfastly on a "lasting unity" with Ukraine that would eventually translate into Kyiv's membership in the wealthy bloc. This week, Hungarian President Viktor Orbán, ever the recalcitrant voice at summits, insisted that the whole idea should be rethought from scratch. □



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## Migrating Venezuelans undeterred by US plan to resume deportation flights

By Juan Zamorano and  
Gisela Salomon

Associated Press

LAJAS BLANCAS, Panama

(AP) — At the edge of Pan-

ama's Darien jungle Friday, Venezuelans made up the majority of migrants waiting for buses to speed them across the country to Costa Rica, where they planned to continue moving north.

Annie Carrillo, a 38-year-old Venezuelan migrant traveling with her Colombian husband and another friend, said they had crossed the dense, lawless jungle from Colombia in three days after paying \$350 each to a guide. When she heard about the U.S. government's plan to restart deportation flights to Venezuela in the coming days, Carrillo was discouraged.

"No one emigrates from their country because they want to. One migrates because you have basic needs and there isn't support in your native country," she said, starting to cry. The U.S. government hopes the threat of deportation will be enough to make Venezuelans reconsider trying to enter the United States illegally and opt instead for the online appointment system to make asylum claims or other legal paths. But some migrants said Friday that it would not



Migrants heading north ride arrive to Lajas Blancas, Darien province, Panama, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, after walking across the Darien Gap from Colombia.

(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

stop them from continuing their journey.

Venezuela has suffered political, economic and humanitarian crises over the past decade, pushing at least 7.3 million people to migrate and making food and other necessities unaffordable for those who remain. The vast majority who fled settled in neighboring countries in Latin America, but many began coming to the United States in the last three years.

Observers have pointed out that earlier this week the Biden administration justified the expansion of tem-

porary protected status for Venezuelans announced last month by noting the severe humanitarian challenges in the country. But now the administration has decided Venezuela is not bad enough to keep them from deporting migrants back there.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's assistant secretary for border and immigration policy said Friday that it is already repatriating people to countries with humanitarian situations similar to those in Venezuela.

"These direct repatriations

are obviously made now to Venezuela, but also to other countries that have complicated situations such as Haiti, Cuba and other countries around the world," Blas Núñez-Neto told reporters. "What we are announcing is in accordance with our laws, with our international obligations."

The U.S. Border Patrol encountered Venezuelans 22,000 times along the southwest border in August, nearly double the number in July, but still slightly below the 25,000 encounters in August 2022. Although

Venezuelans make up about 60% of the migrants crossing the Darien Gap this year, they trail migrant numbers from countries including Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala at the U.S. border. At least 18 migrants died and more were injured Friday when a bus carrying them crashed in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

Núñez-Neto said that more than 130,000 Venezuelans had arrived to the U.S. in the past year through legal paths, such as CBP One and humanitarian parole. Still more than 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometers) from the nearest U.S. border crossing, Carrillo hadn't made up her mind yet about whether they would wait for an appointment to seek asylum or risk crossing and turning themselves over to U.S. border agents. She said they had heard it could take more than three months to get an appointment through CBP One, an eternity for migrants who usually spend all their money just making it to the border.

"What sense is there in making this journey where every second counts and every second you're putting your life at risk and only to arrive in a country and have them deport you just like that?" Carrillo said. □



Protestors block the Inter American highway to demand the resignation of Attorney General Consuelo Porras and prosecutor Rafael Curruchiche in Totonicapan, Guatemala, early Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

Activists blocked roads Friday in surging demonstra-

tions to support President-elect Bernardo Arévalo after Guatemala's highest court upheld a move by

## Guatemala's top court upholds suspension of president-elect's party. His supporters block roads

prosecutors to suspend his political party over alleged voter registration fraud.

Arévalo has denounced the suspension as a "coup" aimed neutralizing him before he takes office in January, and his supporters are demanding the resignation of the prosecutors responsible. Street blockades that started this week grew from 14 on Monday to 58 road and highway blockages Friday.

Arévalo and electoral authorities had challenged the suspension of his Seed

Movement party in late August, arguing that the allegations of voter or registration fraud are criminal charges and that by suspending the party the prosecutors were intruding on electoral issues.

The Constitutional Court ruled Thursday that even though the case involves criminal accusations, prosecutors can impose measures that have electoral effects.

Without his party, Arévalo may be hamstrung after he takes office Jan. 14. Aréva-

lo says politically motivated prosecutors are trying to overturn his victory in August elections.

Prosecutors say some of the signatures used to register Arévalo's party may have been false.

Protesters also reacted this week to the attorney general's office seizing vote tallies from electoral authorities. The seizure was part of the continuing investigations into accusations of voting fraud that observers say are politically motivated. □



## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ —** The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is

a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species

of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink



cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has

the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □



## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



**NOORD -** It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handicrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in

the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary

bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



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### How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong

woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics

store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

### Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

### Need a home makeover?

Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to [www.doit.aw](http://www.doit.aw). ☐





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## Aruba Tourism Authority honors a loyal visitor at Divi Village & Golf!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. This lovely lady was honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three honoring levels are as follows:**

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

**The honoree was:**

Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba

Mrs. Teresa Gundlach from Indiana, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Divi Village & Golf bestowed the certificate to the honoree, presented her with memorable gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her best-loved vacation destination, and as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mrs. Gundlach were:  
Aruba's nice warm weather  
Divi's amenities

Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family

Aruba's sun

Aruba's nice sandy beaches

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



## Aruba Tourism Authority honors a loyal visitor at Costa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. This wonderful visitor was honored with a certificate acknowledging his years of visits,

loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to

say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three honoring levels are as follows:**

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

**The honoree was:**

Distinguished Visitor of Aruba Mr. Leonardo Daniel Rodríguez from Central, Paraguay.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the

certificate to the honoree, presented him with memorable gifts, and also thanked him for choosing Aruba as his best-loved vacation destination, and as his home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mrs. Sawtelle were:

Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family

Aruba's nice sandy beaches

Aruba's safety

Aruba's many varieties of restaurants to choose from

Aruba's nice warm weather

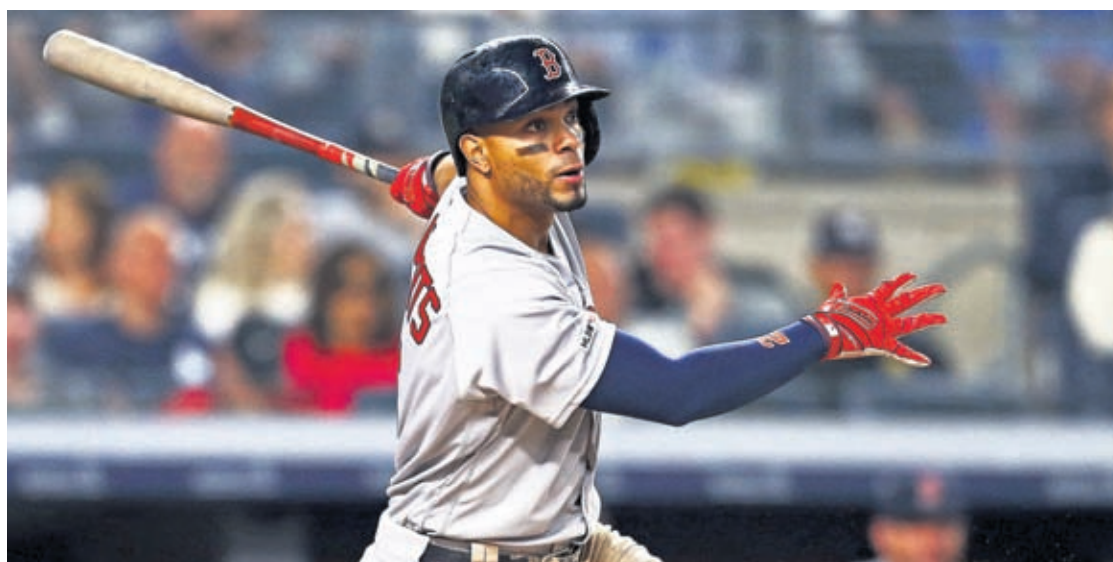
On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □





## Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD —** Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba

that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor

"Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San

Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950. In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the ex-

isting teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox.

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms





## Did you know about...?

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called *Did you know about...?*, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is *placa*. Cents are called *cen* (pronounced: *seng*), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called *Dos placa*; 10-cent coins were called *debchi*; 25-cent coins were called *diez placa* and the 50-cent coin was once called *Yotin* (pronounced: *jo-teen*). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called *placa too*. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.



### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank

of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs

that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

### Current design and symbolism

#### 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a *Turtuga blanco* (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

#### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called *Shoshoro*. The birds *Trupiaal*, *Shoco*, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a *Purun di ceramica* (clay pot), in

reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

#### 50 florin

On this bill, we see the *Cododo* (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), *Can-greu di tera* (land crab), *Willem III Tower*, and again the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called *Banana di rif*. The colors are pink/purple.

#### 100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the *Yuwana* (iguana), *Aloe*, *Toteki* (lizard), the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the *Baile di cinta* (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

#### 200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the *Dornasol* and the *Warawara*—both local birds, along with the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, the *Tuna cactus* plant, and the *Caha di orgel* (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

### Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

Source: *Placa, placa, placa* by the National Library of Aruba





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Twisty course
- 7 Coop group
- 11 Asian temple
- 12 Balm ingredient
- 13 Prolific inventor
- 14 Andean capital
- 15 "Okla-homa!" aunt
- 16 Implied
- 17 Ruby and Sandra
- 18 Secant's reciprocal
- 19 Qom's country
- 21 Poet Hughes
- 22 Virtual world
- 25 Jazz horn
- 26 Goose egg
- 27 Copy fixer
- 29 Choir member
- 33 Pan of fiction
- 34 Humorous
- 35 Makeshift swing
- 36 Full grown

- 37 Pressing need
- 38 No longer in bed
- 39 Field cries
- 40 New

## DOWN

- 1 Keanu Reeves film
- 2 Soup server
- 3 Nimble
- 4 Wigs out
- 5 Dump output
- 6 Chess piece
- 7 NFL pioneer
- 8 Calls forth George
- 9 Oscar hopeful
- 10 On the sofa
- 16 Copier need
- 18 Spelunker
- 20 Barber's need
- 22 Dessert wine
- 23 Preferred seating, for some
- 24 Stiffly awkward
- 25 Bacteria-ridden
- 28 Prom crowd
- 30 Entertain tress of myth
- 32 Perfume
- 34 Main-tenance
- 36 Ruin

A	R	E	N	A	P	I	E	C	E
C	O	D	A	S	A	R	D	O	R
C	A	M	P	S	G	A	M	M	A
E	D	U	I	D	A	U	P	S	
S	I	N	G	I	N	N	E	E	
S	E	D	O	N	A	A	D	D	S
		H	A	S	T	E	N	S	
G	O	I	T	O	N	S	P	E	C
A	L	L	A	M	I	E	R	R	
L	I	L	M	S	G	N	N	E	
O	V	A	T	E	M	O	S	E	S
S	I	R	E	N	A	R	E	S	T
H	A	Y	E	S	S	I	O	R	T

## Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15					16				
17				18					
19	20					21			
22	23					24			
25			26						
27		28			29	30	31	32	
33					34				
35				36					
37				38					
39				40					

10-7

A X Y D I B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-7

## CRYPTOQUOTE

W J Y J P H E K L X W D L X C J I T

C J D Y J R V X A B D V J A R E G U I P .

— C X W E R . " X A ' R A B J F P J D A

L E K L U X W . G B D P C X J Q P I V W "

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF THE FULL MOON LOVES YOU, WHY WORRY ABOUT THE STARS? AFRICAN PROVERB

# US moves closer to underground testing of nuclear weapons stockpile without any actual explosions



In this photo provided by Sandia National Laboratories, a technician inspects cathode inductive voltage adder cells used in the Scorpion Injector being assembled at Sandia National Labs, June 8, 2023, in Albuquerque, N.M.

Associated Press

By Scott Sonner

Associated Press

**RENO, Nev. (AP)** — Scientists charged with ensuring the aging U.S. stockpile of nuclear weapons are good to go if needed say they'll start shipping key components to Nevada's desert next year to prepare for underground testing they call "tickling the dragon's tail."

Experts at national defense laboratories haven't been able to physically validate the effectiveness and reliability of nuclear warheads since a 1992 underground test ban. But Energy Department officials announced Thursday they're on the verge of piecing together the technology needed to do the next best thing.

As early as 2027, the \$1.8 billion Scorpion project will make it possible to move beyond theoretical computer modeling to study in much more detail the conditions found inside the

final stages of a nuclear weapon implosion but without the nuclear explosion, said Jon Custer, the Sandia project lead in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Scientists call it "tickling the dragon's tail," Custer said, because the experiment approaches but stays below the stage at which the fission of nuclear materials sustains an ongoing series of chain reactions.

The hope is to answer many pivotal questions about whether the nation's aging nuclear weapons still work as designed.

During the Cold War, those questions were answered by actually setting off nuclear explosions. In the 1950s and early 1960s, the explosions sent mushroom clouds high into the skies above the New Mexico and Nevada deserts. Testing later was limited to underground explosions, which ended in 1992.

In the works for 10 years, the new era of testing has ad-

vanced to the next phase at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico where workers have started assembling the high-energy electron beam injector considered the most complex piece of Scorpion, Energy Department officials said Thursday.

The experimental machine the length of a football field eventually will sit 1,000 feet (304 meters) below the ground at the Nevada National Security Site.

"It's clear we need to know that the stockpile will work if required," Custer said.

"If you had a car in a garage for 30 to 50 years and one day you insert the ignition key, how confident are you that it will start?" he asked. "That's how old our nuclear deterrent is. It has been more than 30 years since we conducted an underground nuclear explosive test."

The Los Alamos National Lab in northern New Mexico and Lawrence Livermore National Lab in California also have roles in the project.

The injector being assembled at Sandia is a linear induction accelerator that will generate a high-energy electron beam to collide with a metal target generating X-rays that penetrate test objects. As plutonium is compressed with the high explosives, a detector will convert the X-rays into images recorded by a sensitive camera that can capture images at speeds of 1 billion per second. Those nanosecond portraits will be compared with images of the same events generated by supercomputer codes to check their accuracy.

Scorpion will be fully assembled in an underground complex at the facility formerly known as the Nevada Test Site, where scientists have been conducting subcritical experiments since 1995 and nuclear testing dates to 1951. □

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# A surge of hiring in September defies predictions, pointing to US job market's enduring resilience

By Christopher Rugabaer  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — An unforeseen burst of hiring last month has lifted hopes that the economy will prove durable once again, even as an array of threats lie ahead.

Businesses across the U.S. economy ramped up their hiring in September, defying surging interest rates, financial market turmoil, the ongoing threat of a government shutdown and an uncertain outlook to add the most jobs in any month since January.

The hiring binge confounded expectations for a slow-down and added one more layer of complexity to the Federal Reserve's high-wire effort to defeat inflation without causing a recession.

The 336,000 jobs that were added in September exceeded the 227,000 for August and raised the average gain for the past three months to a robust 266,000. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.8%, not far above a half-century low.

Friday's government report raised hopes for a notoriously difficult "soft landing," by which the Federal Reserve would manage to curb high inflation with a series of rate hikes without derailing the economy.

But the healthy pace of hiring also highlights the confounding nature of the U.S. economy as it navigates the uncharted post-pandemic era. A strong job market suggests that growth might be too healthy for inflation to keep declining and that the Fed might have to further raise rates.

Speaking after the September hiring data was released, President Joe Biden asserted that the robust job growth was a result of his policies, a message he has repeated in speeches ahead of next year's elections. Yet polls show that most adults still hold a negative view of



**A FedEx driver makes deliveries in Palatine, Ill., Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023. On Friday, the U.S. government issues its latest monthly jobs report.**  
(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

the economy, with Biden's agenda having yet to make much impact on public sentiment.

The president attributed public doubts about the economy to the nature of news media coverage, which he said prioritizes the negative.

"I think that the American people are smart as hell and know what their interests are," Biden said. "I think they know they're better off financially than they were before."

The Fed has raised its benchmark short-term rate 11 times since last year to about 5.4%, the highest in 22 years the fastest pace of rate hikes in four decades. The increases are intended to slow borrow-

ing and spending by businesses and consumers, thereby cooling growth. When employers added just 105,000 jobs in June, economists had expected further modest gains to come. Instead, hiring has rebounded with vigor.

There are several likely reasons why: Millions of people have started job hunting in the past year, pulled into the job market by strong demand for workers and higher pay. Others have likely been drawn in by financial stress they feel from higher prices. Immigration has also rebounded after COVID-era restrictions were lifted.

As a result, more workers are available to fill millions of open positions. This

trend has lessened the labor shortages that many employers complained about since the recovery from the 2020 pandemic and enabled some companies to finally catch up to their previous employment levels. In September, for example, restaurants and bars added 61,000 positions, finally restoring their pre-pandemic levels of payrolls.

Likewise, hospitals, child care centers and government agencies are still adding workers as they seek to rebuild their staffs after having lost workers during COVID.

"We've seen a very impressive rebound in the labor supply," said Sarah House, senior economist at Wells Fargo.

"After a downturn, there's a lot of consternation about to what extent workers will come back. ☐



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

**Oranjestad:**

Sta. Anna: Tel. 586 8181  
Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

Women in Difficulties

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 582 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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Phone Directory Tel. 118



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# A nurse is named as the prime suspect in the mysterious death of the Nigerian Afrobeat star Mohbad

By Chinedu Asadu  
Associated Press

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — A nurse was identified on Friday as the “principal suspect” in the mysterious death of a Nigerian Afrobeat star, which triggered dayslong protests by thousands demanding justice. Investigations into the death of Ilerioluwa Aloba, better known as MohBad, in the commercial hub of Lagos have pointed to the nurse who treated the late singer before his death, Lagos police chief Idowu Owohunwa told reporters on Friday.

The nurse was invited to treat Aloba for an unknown illness at his Lagos residence where she “administered three different injections which are believed to have occasioned the chain of reactions that directly resulted in the death of the singer,” Owohunwa said.

The nurse is in custody, but



People hold candles during a minute of silence during a protest at a park in Lagos, Nigeria, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, to demand justice for Afrobeat star Mohbad following his mysterious death. (AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

there has been no arraignment and no formal charges have been brought.

The police statement came after a closely-watched investigation that prompted

Aloba's body to be exhumed for an autopsy as authorities searched for answers to what killed the 27-year-old on Sept. 12.

Widely known as one of Ni-

geria's fastest-rising young pop stars, Aloba was confirmed dead at a Lagos hospital in unclear circumstances. Questions about the cause of his death

prompted protests, rallies and grief spilling onto the streets across the West African nation.

His death also drew many to his songs, where he mostly spoke about life growing up and his quest for a better life.

The outrage over the singer's death was also directed at Naira Marley, his former boss and controversial musician currently on trial in Nigeria for alleged internet fraud.

Marley was accused of maltreating Aloba, which he denied. He remains in police custody as one of the suspects in the case, the police said.

The police said that its investigation found that doses of some drugs administered to Aloba by the nurse “immediately and directly triggered the reactions (including vomiting, goose bumps, convulsion) that eventually resulted in the singer's death.” □

## Ex-lover of Spain's former king loses \$153 million harassment lawsuit in London court

By Brian Melley  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Former Spanish King Juan Carlos I won his London court battle Friday with an ex-lover who had sought 126 million pounds (\$153 million) in damages for allegedly being harassed and spied on by him after their breakup. Danish socialite and businessperson Corinna Larsen, also known as Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, said the former monarch caused her “great mental pain” by orchestrating threats and ordering unlawful covert and overt surveillance of her. Larsen was Juan Carlos' mistress from 2004 to 2009, the court said. Juan Carlos, 85, who abdicated in 2014, denied wrongdoing and disputed the allegations, arguing that an English court didn't have jurisdiction to hear the

case because he doesn't live in Britain. He has a home in Spain but currently lives in Abu Dhabi.

High Court Justice Rowena Collins Rice threw out the lawsuit after agreeing with the king. She added that Larsen, who owns homes

in England, had not adequately shown that the harassment occurred in Britain, which could have provided an exception to the jurisdiction legal principle.

A statement issued on behalf of the king said that while he regretted the ex-

pense and time spent over three years, he welcomed the decision. It claimed the ruling “unsurprisingly” confirmed his innocence.

But the judge specifically said she had not considered the substance of Larsen's claims because she was only concerned with whether the king could be forced to face trial in England.

“The claimant has an account she wishes to give of her personal and financial history with the defendant, and about the harm he has caused her peace of mind and personal wellbeing, and her business, social and family life,” Collins Rice said in the 92-page decision. “I take no view about that account as such.”

Larsen said in a statement that she was disappointed with the outcome and was considering her options.

“It is disheartening to see that victims of harassment often struggle to find justice in our legal system,” she said. “Juan Carlos has deployed his full armory to grind me down and the reach of his power is immense.”

The ruling comes 10 months after a U.K. appeals court panel tossed out part of the lawsuit on the grounds that some of the alleged harassment took place before Juan Carlos abdicated in 2014 and therefore he had immunity as a former head of state.

Friday's ruling dealt a blow to the remaining elements of the lawsuit.

Juan Carlos was once one of Spain's most respected public figures for his role in the country's return to democracy following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975. □



In this file photo dated June 2, 2019, Spain's former King Juan Carlos waves at the bullring in Aranjuez, Spain. (AP Photo/Andrea Comas, FILE)



## Max Verstappen qualifies on pole for the Qatar Grand Prix. He can win the title in Saturday's sprint

**LOSAIL, Qatar (AP)** — Max Verstappen underlined why he's on the verge of a third consecutive Formula One title as he qualified on pole for the Qatar Grand Prix on Friday. He can clinch the title in Saturday's sprint race. Verstappen set a commanding time early in the third and last session of qualifying and bailed out of his final run after his car slid off the racing line. It didn't matter as George Russell could only manage a time .441 seconds slower than Verstappen as he qualified second. His Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton was third, .527 off the pace. Verstappen can secure the title with at least a sixth-place finish in the sprint Saturday. That contest will have its own separate "shootout" qualifying session earlier the same day. If it doesn't work out Saturday for the Dutch driver, pole position is the best possible insurance policy for Sunday. "It doesn't really change anything. I just want to have a good weekend," Verstappen said of the



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands walks after the qualifying session ahead of the Qatar Formula One Grand Prix at the Lusail International Circuit in Lusail, Qatar, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

standings situation. "And of course, I know in the back of my mind that that's happening. But it doesn't add any extra pressure or whatever. I just want to enjoy the weekend and try to do the best I can." Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez qualified only 13th for Sunday's race after

his best time in the second part of qualifying was deleted because he went off track. Had it counted, he would have scraped into the third session in 10th. Even if Verstappen fails to clinch the title in Saturday's sprint, Perez would have to storm through the field on Sunday and score far more points than Verstappen to

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit, Pool)

keep the title race alive. Russell gave no sign he expects to challenge Verstappen for the race win Sunday. Asked what he could do about Verstappen from second on the grid, he said: "Waving him goodbye, I think, after turn one." "Max has done an exceptional job. He deserves to

be champion this year," Russell added. "Of course, Formula One, we love the competition, but we can't take anything away from what he and Red Bull have done. And we need to look at ourselves in the mirror and raise our game into next year and give him a challenge."

With Verstappen's time far out of reach, more qualifying drama came from stewards' video reviews than on-track action.

As drivers took wide lines in search of quick times, there were constant investigations examining if all four tires were off the track. By the time the standings were confirmed, drivers were already out of their cars and giving interviews.

McLaren's Lando Norris set a time which was good enough for second place, only for it to be deleted for an infringement. That promoted Russell to second and Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri to third, only for the Australian to be told in a TV interview that his time also wasn't valid. □

## André Tourigny is leading the Coyotes into Phase 2 of their rebuilding project

By John Marshall  
Associated Press

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — Bill Armstrong's first move as the Arizona Coyotes' general manager was to do nothing. Wanting to take a calculated look at the moribund franchise, Armstrong sat back and watched for an entire season before deciding on a course of action. His plan: a nearly complete overhaul. To pull off his rebuild, Armstrong needed a coach who could connect with and develop young players. André Tourigny was the perfect fit. "The one thing about him was that he was firm with his

players, he motivated his players, but didn't leave a scar," Armstrong said. "I felt like we needed that type of coach because we were in the process of gutting everything, keeping what we liked then added in young players. You need to bring them in properly and I felt like he could do that." The Coyotes have been a curiosity across the league as the franchise has gone through a string of owners, including four years of being operated by the NHL, regularly missed the playoffs and struggled to find a permanent home. Playing at Arizona State University's 5,000-seat Mullett Arena since last season has only intensified the nov-

elty of hockey in the desert. Now the franchise may finally be banking toward a better future, at least on the ice. After years of trying to add players to their existing core, the Coyotes went all-in on Armstrong's ground-up plan. Arizona started unloading veteran players to accrue draft picks, a decision that left them talent-thin on the ice, but fortified for the future. When the franchise opted to part ways with coach Rick Tocchet after four seasons, Armstrong wanted a coach who had experience developing young players since that would be the primary makeup of the roster. Tourigny has spent



Arizona Coyotes center Logan Cooley is congratulated by teammates after scoring on a penalty shot during the third period of a preseason NHL hockey game against the Anaheim Ducks Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, in Anaheim, Calif.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

much of his career working with younger players, starting with an 11-year stint as the head coach and

general manager for the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. □



# Weekly SPECIALS



<p><b>WAS \$19.42</b></p> <p><b>\$15.99</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Angus Chuck Tender/Braadstuk</p>	<p><b>WAS \$9.99</b></p> <p><b>\$8.28</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>U.S. Procureur Filet Steaks</p>	<p><b>WAS \$8.54</b></p> <p><b>\$7.40</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Broccoli Crown</p>	<p><b>WAS \$10.26</b></p> <p><b>\$7.91</b></p> <p>Per BAG</p>  <p>Grapes Red Seedless 2lb</p>
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<p><b>WAS \$3.59</b></p> <p><b>\$2.83</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Avocado (Awakoti)</p>	<p><b>WAS \$10.57</b></p> <p><b>\$8.85</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Chicken Cutlet Hot/Spicy</p>	<p><b>WAS \$5.42</b></p> <p><b>\$5.11</b></p> <p>Per BAG</p>  <p>Potatoes Russet 5lbs</p>	<p><b>WAS \$5.14</b></p> <p><b>\$2.62</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Blue Band Halvarine 500gr</p>	<p><b>WAS \$4.85</b></p> <p><b>\$4.54</b></p> <p>Per BAG</p>  <p>Apples Gala 3lbs</p>
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**DIARY/FROZEN**

<p><b>WAS \$3.71</b></p> <p><b>\$2.79</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Goed Begin 500gr</p>	<p><b>WAS \$2.51</b></p> <p><b>\$1.88</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Melkan Kookroom 20 Procent 250ml</p>
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**HBC/GM**

<p><b>WAS \$4.45</b></p> <p><b>\$3.99</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Aquafresh Toothpaste Sensitive 5.6 z</p>	<p><b>WAS \$0.63</b></p> <p><b>\$0.51</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Sencefresh Toothbrush Soft Comfort Clean 1ct</p>
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**DELI/BAKERY**

<p><b>WAS \$1.03</b></p> <p><b>\$1.00</b></p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Jonge Kaas</p>	<p><b>WAS \$2.85</b></p> <p><b>\$2.28</b></p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Yorkham</p>
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## DRY FOOD

<p><b>éxito</b></p> <p><b>ekono</b></p> <p><b>Avena</b></p> <p>Ekono Oat Flakes 1000G</p> <p><b>\$3.99</b></p> <p>Each</p>	<p><b>éxito</b></p> <p><b>taeq</b></p> <p><b>té Verde</b></p> <p>Taeq Green Tea Flavor of Lula 30g</p> <p><b>\$3.37</b></p> <p>Each</p>	<p><b>éxito</b></p> <p><b>Granolitas</b></p> <p>Taeq Six Pack Granolitas 210g</p> <p><b>\$3.42</b></p> <p>Each</p>	<p><b>éxito</b></p> <p><b>Frijoles</b></p> <p>Frescampo Beans with Bacon 300g</p> <p><b>\$2.28</b></p> <p>Each</p>	<p><b>éxito</b></p> <p><b>PALMI</b></p> <p>Frescampo Whole Heart of Palm 330g</p> <p><b>\$4.28</b></p> <p>Each</p>
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